NATIONAL PETITION ISSUE
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# McGill Daily

SIGN PETITION BELOW

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# *Thousands In Universities Support Stand Against Conscription For Service Abroad*

## Our Position When Britain Enters War

**Prof. Scott Delivers Address At Strathcona Hall 1:30 Today**

*By F. R. Scott*

Today, when a new European war threatens to break out at any moment, the question of Canada's obligation to the British Commonwealth becomes vitally important. Do we have to take part in every war Great Britain fights? Or has the Statute of Westminster given us the right to neutrality? And what are the consequences of neutrality? These are questions to which the people want an answer, and which the Canadian Government has so far left unanswered.

This article is an attempt to set out the facts, not to argue a position. The facts must be known before anyone can make a clear decision as to what line of policy Canada should follow in the event of another war.

Until the Statute of Westminster of 1931, the British Commonwealth was a unit in so far as peace and war were concerned. The Dominions were making their own treaties in the name of the King, and had their own Ministers in certain foreign capitals, yet it was admitted that the Crown in Great Britain could alone speak for all British subjects on matters of peace and war. This power belongs to the Royal Prerogative over foreign affairs, and had never been delegated, as had other parts of the Prerogative, to the Governors-General in the Dominions. Thus the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 made peace between Canada and Turkey though Canada took no part in the treaty and did not sign it.

In spite of this unity in the Commonwealth, the Imperial Conference of 1923 had laid down the following propositions, which were confirmed at the Conference of 1926:

"1. The Conference affirms that it is necessary to provide for the adequate defence of the territories and trade of the several countries comprising the British Empire.

"2. In this connection the Conference expressly recognizes that it is for the Parliaments of the several parts of the Empire, upon the recommendations of their respective Governments, to decide the nature and extent of any action which should be taken by them."

### *A British War Involves Canada*

It is clear from these decisions that defence was assumed to be a common obligation, though the extent of each Dominion's contribution was left to the Parliament of that Dominion. If a Dominion decided not to take part in the war at all, it would not therefore be neutral, since Great Britain's declaration of war would automatically place the whole Empire at war. The non-participating Dominion would be in a state of "passive belligerency". But the enemy state could treat that Dominion and its citizens as enemies equally with other British subjects.

This state of affairs, according to the best authorities, has not been changed by the Statute of Westminster of 1931, that statute conferred upon the Dominions additional power to make laws on any matter they need, but until the Dominions make use of this extra autonomy their position remains what it formerly was in foreign affairs as in other fields.

South Africa has used her new power to provide herself with a Great Seal which, if she wishes, she can employ to give expression to the King's will in South Africa without having to get the King's personal signature in London. It seems therefore that South Africa could issue an independent proclamation of war, peace or neutrality at any time which would be legally valid. But Canada has taken no such steps, and cannot yet follow an independent policy.

### *Equality Of Status Does Not Exist*

Today if Great Britain goes to war CANADA IS IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED without any Canadian authorities having to give their consent. The National Government in London which received less than 50% of the votes in the last British elections) can make Canadians enemies of any foreign power regardless of Canadian feeling. Thus the promise of the Balfour Declaration of 1926, that the members of the Commonwealth were equal in status and "in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs" has not yet been carried out. The Canadian people, the Canadian Parliament and the Canadian Government are completely subordinate in this respect to the British Cabinet. Equality of status does not exist.

Mr. King and Mr. Lapointe have recently said in the House of Commons that the Canadian Parliament will decide, in the light of all the circumstances, whether or not Canada will participate if a war breaks out. But they have both failed to say what Canada can decide to do, which is the vital point. Their language suggests that Canada may decide to remain neutral. This is impossible as matters now stand. The only decision can be whether or not to send troops to the war which Canada will already be engaged in. The fact that Canada will already be at war, that the enemy country will legally be able to seize Canadian property and intern Canadian citizens, that "incidents" involving Canadians are likely to occur before Parliament can meet, will all tend to inflame public opinion in Canada in favour of active participation. In short, the existing constitutional situation makes a free choice by Canada more difficult. The Canadian Parliament might find that the war had been raging several weeks before it could meet to make its decision.

### *Neutrality Is Not Secession*

Is neutrality possible without secession from the Commonwealth? Two answers are given to this question. Some authorities, notably Professor Corbett of McGill, believe that neutrality would mean the break-up of the Commonwealth, that the common nationality of British subject would have to be given up and that no Dominion could treat Great Britain and her enemies as equals in a war without creating tensions that would destroy the remaining bonds of Empire. Others have said that it is not impossible to work out a theory of the Commonwealth which would fit even the delicate situation. The Crown is clearly now a divisible concept, already some British subjects are not "Canadian citizens", the theory of what is called "personal union", such as existed between England and Scotland in the seventeenth century and England and Hanover in the eighteenth century, would seem capable of being expanded to meet this new situation. Neutrality for Canada would involve, however, refusing the British Navy the right to use Canadian ports during the war, though Canadians could still legally go on trading as at present. There are admittedly, however, great difficulties in this position which would have to be carefully thought out. Every new advance in Dominion status has always looked as though it would break up the Empire.

If Canada wished to obtain the right to neutrality, she would have to make some slight constitutional changes in order to transfer this part of the Royal prerogative to the Governor-General in the Dominion. But it would not be enough merely to provide the internal method for declaring neutrality; the other nations of the world should be informed of the change within the Commonwealth. If a right to neutrality is to be internationally effective, it should be worked out in sufficient detail at an imperial conference and the decision formally recorded at Geneva and in foreign capitals. The next Imperial Conference will meet this summer in London. It would appear from the recent statements of Mr. MacKenzie King that the Canadian Government is unlikely to raise the matter at the Conference.

## All-Canadian Petition Desires Sure Legislative Guarantee For An Independent Foreign Policy

**Will Be Presented By Student Delegation To Hon. Ian Mackenzie and Hon. Fernand Rinfret On March 15 — Petition Circulating On Campuses Until March 13.**

**WHEREAS the present international situation confronts us with the imminent danger of war,**

**Therefore, we the undersigned Canadian students resolutely affirm our stand for peace and hereby submit the following petition to the Canadian Parliament.**

**1. — Whereas the Militia Act is part of the revised statutes of Canada c. 132, 1927; and**

**Whereas certain sections of this act make it possible for Canadians to be conscripted for active service abroad by order-in-council,**

**Therefore we hereby register our opposition to conscription for active service abroad and petition Parliament to amend the aforesaid act so as to remove this present power.**

**2. — Whereas many rumors are being circulated in Canada today concerning the possible commitments of Canada to Great Britain in the event of Great Britain being at war; and**

**Whereas the relationship of Canada to Great Britain in this event is not clearly defined,**

**Therefore we petition the Canadian Parliament to enact legislation necessary to establish and make clear that Canada is not automatically at war when Great Britain declares war, and that only the Canadian Government has authority to declare war and peace for Canada.**

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE PEACE PETITION EFFORT

***(By The Student Peace Movement Executive)***

*On March 15 a delegation of students from Canadian Universities will present to the Federal Cabinet a petition expressing views held by a very large number of Canadian undergraduates. This petition is at present being circulated throughout the country. Wherever it has been introduced, students have rallied to its support. Executive Councils, representing approximately two-thirds of the university students of Canada have endorsed it. This can be only because the petition voices opinions which have long been held on the campuses. March 15 will be a memorable day for Canadian students. For on this day students will for once forsake emotional and abstract "Peace Talk" and squarely face some of the most vital issues of the day. They will propose a definite line of action for the country's foreign policy. March 15 will be a landmark in student history.*

*Progress Since The Middle Ages*

*For the past five months, since the return of the Prime Minister from Geneva, one topic has been time and time again headlined in Canadian newspapers: Canada's position in the event of outbreak of war. For the first time since the war, Canadians have lost their sense of security: they no longer gaze on the three thousand miles of undefended borders and the three thousand miles of ocean which separates them from European chaos, with the old sense of security. In view of this it would seem more essential than ever before to have a clear cut policy from the government: but this policy has not been forthcoming. At best there have been assurances which were vague enough to be interpreted in more than one way.*

*After Premier King's stay in Geneva he spent some time in London. Various rumours began to circulate in Canada at this time. Some suspected that Imperial Defence was on the order of discussion. Others denied it. In any case there was a reign of silence on the matter which resulted in confusion as to what were the actual intentions of the government. When Premier King returned he said very little on the question. Reliable correspondents in Ottawa printed stories about defence estimates reaching up to $75,000,000. Later a scheduled radio address by the Minister of Defence to explain the Defence Programme was suddenly cancelled. Again silence!*

*When the Defence estimates were finally brought before the House there was considerable opposition voiced even by members of the Liberal party, despite the statement made by the Prime Minister that Canada had absolutely no commitments with the British Government, and the assurances of the Minister for National Defence that every cent of the estimates was intended solely for Canada's defence.*

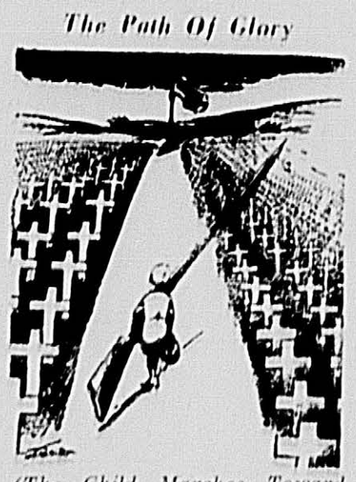
*Who can doubt that the controversy stirred up by the Defence Estimates is largely due to the fact that there is no certainty about the future of Canadian policy? Much indefiniteness exists today concerning Canada's relation to Great Britain in the event of Great Britain declaring war. If the country is not to be split into warring factions in the near future, then there must be a clarification of the present situation.*

*It is because the very unity of the country is in danger that the present petition is being circulated. It is not intended as a partisan criticism of the Government but as the expression of an outlook held by the large majority of Canadian students. This outlook must definitely be brought home to the government NOW before the Canadian Delegation leaves to participate in the Conference of the Dominions which will follow the Coronation.*

*The first resolution of the petition expresses opposition to that section of the Militia Act which gives the government power to conscript Canadians for active service abroad without the passage of special legislation in Parliament. In view of the repeated statement of the government that Parliament will decide the extent to which the country will participate in any war, it seems hardly reasonable to grant the government the power to conscript for foreign wars outside Canadian territory by a mere order-in-Council. If conscription is at any time necessary, then special legislation can be introduced in Parliament. Even the British Government which is considerably nearer to the war-danger has not such power of conscription. Why should the Canadian Government have it?.*

*School Opens In Europe*

*The Path Of Glory*



*(The Child Marches Toward The European Mobilization Camps)*

*The second resolution is essentially a request that the government take such action as will clarify a state of affairs that is confusing to all Canadians. Its purpose is to leave the hands of the government free so that it can pursue an independent foreign policy which serves the best interests of Canada. The Prime Minister pointed out at Geneva as well as at home that "What Parliament will do in the event of war will be determined in the light of all existing circumstances." This is very desirable. But in view of the present situation it is Utopian to hope that Parliament will really have a free choice in the matter. For the present position is such that when Great Britain declares war, Canada is automatically at war.*

*It is this situation which the Petition proposes to end. It asks for some legislative guarantee that Parliament and the government will, in an emergency, act in the best interests of the country and not be stampeded into action they may live to regret years later. Some individuals have levelled the cry of Secession against the Petition. This was to be expected. Every advance in the Constitutional position of the Dominions has been greeted with this charge. The sponsors of the petition sincerely believe that the passage of the legislation it demands is quite compatible with membership in the British Commonwealth of Nations. They believe that it is not at all necessary to break the ties that bind our country to the Commonwealth.*

## S.P.M. States Position On Peace Drive

**National Committee Issues Statement Concerning Petition**

The Student petition is a welcome indication that Canadian undergraduates are at last awakening from their long winter sleep with regards to the vital question of war. As such it has received the maximum of support from the Student Peace Movements in the various localities. At the same time, precisely because the petition has called forth such a response everywhere it becomes necessary to obtain a general perspective and to discover what basis exists for Peace.

In spite of the world-wide sentiment for peace, international tension increases from day to day. Does this mean that war is inevitable? We firmly believe that war, as a product of social organization, is a monster of man's own making. It can therefore be controlled if only its inner mechanism is discovered and subjected to the united will of peoples the world over? This deep-rooted conviction—of the effectiveness of a united stand for peace—is the basic premise of our position.

Such a stand, if it is to be at all successful must be based on a clear understanding of all questions connected with peace and war. We Canadian students are in particular concerned with such matters as Canada's foreign policy—her relations with the League and the Empire. In addition we face the broader problems of the individual and his attitude to war, chauvinistic education and propaganda, racial and religious antagonisms.

By an ever-growing appreciation of these vital questions our field of clear vision will expand. As each issue arises, the path that leads to peace will be clearly indicated.

Can Canadian foreign policy be controlled by the Canadian people? In a democracy it would be strange indeed if we had to reply in the negative. Individual members of Parliament as well as Cabinet ministers are sensitive to public opinion. They are every day influenced and governed by what organizations in their constituencies believe. And it is they who determine our country's stand at Geneva, in London and at home. It is by this contact between members of parliament and their constituents that popular opinion is transformed into governmental policy and action.

A well-informed and strongly-organized public opinion is therefore the best guarantee that the policy of our government will at all times be directed towards keeping our country out of war. It is our greatest safeguard against action motivated by selfish or partisan interest.

### Aim Of Student Peace Movement

The Student Peace Movement exists primarily in order to build up such an enlightened public opinion. As a student movement it focusses its attention on the campus and the high-schools. But it at all times seeks to keep in close contact with peace organizations working among other sections of the population. Among the activities it proposes are the following:

1. Research committees to unearth and publish material relating to peace and war.

2. Study circles where the members of the movement together examine some of the issues mentioned above.

3. Addresses to the student body delivered by prominent and well informed speakers.

4. Direct appeals to the Government for action on specific issues as they arise.

Since its formation as a national body at a conference of Canadian students in Toronto in Dec. 1936, the S.P.M. has made considerable progress towards its goal of a nation-wide student movement. At present active units exist at McGill, Varsity and Queens. A unit has also been formed recently at the University of Alberta. On certain occasions—such as the "Peace Hour" celebrations held last March,—students of many other colleges and universities have entered into joint activity. The Movement has made some headway in the high schools, particularly in Montreal where six of the high schools have Peace Councils. Since the 1936 conference, the national affairs of the movement have been conducted by a committee with headquarters at McGill University, Montreal.

### The S.P.M. and The Petition

In all its activities the S.P.M. has sought to react in the best possible way to situations as they arise. It has thrown its weight behind the petition because the petition does answer certain needs of the present situation. Whatever be the outcome of any specific activities, the Movement is at all times heartened by the realization that it is not alone in these efforts for peace. Throughout the world there are millions of allies who are with it, determined that war must be banished from this earth.

The S.P.M. realizes that many students are today dominated by a feeling of futility, and have given up all hope of world peace. Others shrug their shoulders and pretend that they are not concerned with this problem, which —to quote the memorable words of Principal Morgan—"matters more than anything else in the world." To all these students the S.P.M. resolutely offers an alternative—that of joining in the hero's struggle to build a warless world.

## PETITION SIGNATURES

*Sign on Dotted Line.*

*If you approve petition, sign, tear out and deposit where indicated. (At McGill boxes in Arts Lobby, Smoking Room, R.V.C. Common Room, Engineering Bldg., Strathmore Hall, etc.)*

*TEXT*

*Whereas the present international situation confronts us with the imminent danger of war,*

*Therefore, we the undersigned Canadian students resolutely affirm our stand for peace and hereby submit the following petition to the Canadian Parliament.*

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*SIGNATURE* .....

*FACULTY, YEAR* .....

# McGill Daily

OLDEST COLLEGE DAILY IN CANADA

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# Towards A Canadian University Press

TODAY the Daily has given over its space to the Peace Movement in order that the ends of their National Petition may be furthered. The Daily, in doing this, feels that this issue is a natural sequence to its earlier survey. In this earlier survey it was found, after determining the opinions of a score of Canadian Universities that Canadian students were predominately against conscription in any form. The petition now being circulated is the result of this finding and offers a chance for Canadian students to back up their opinion in a concrete fashion.

What good can possibly come of such a petition? This is a question frequently asked. It can do two things. First it is a means of expressing the opinions of the students of Canada. Second—it will draw the attention of the public and Parliament to these opinions.

Today there is growing provincialism in Canada. The people in one section of the country are not in sympathy with the people of other parts. This is in large measure due to the lack of exchange of ideas and of common interests. Ventures such as this peace petition present an opportunity for the people of one section of the community to know what other sections of the community think about the question at hand. It is a pity that there is not a greater intercourse of ideas between the various sections of our Dominion.

Last autumn the first attempt of the Canadian University Press was responded to by over two thirds of the Canadian Universities. Lack of time has prevented a second questionnaire from being circulated, but it is felt that today's special issue of the Daily will be a follow-up of the ideas expressed in the first effort. It is hoped that next year will see the continuation of this Canadian University Press in the form of another questionnaire upon a subject of interest to students. It is conceivable that the Canadian University Press will develop by the inclusion of features in its ambit and eventually into a real service for the exchange of news amongst college newspapers and college students across the Dominion.

Next winter it is hoped that a conference will be held where those papers interested in forming a concrete news and feature exchange service, which will be national in its scope, will be represented. At the present time it is understood that the bi-annual meeting of the National Federation of Canadian University Students will be held in Winnipeg during the Christmas Holidays. It would be a splendid thing if this question could be satisfactorily discussed at that time.

Throughout Canada there is the cry of the Provincialist. In the Maritimes it comes as the age old agitation concerning "Maritime Rights"; in Quebec it takes its form in "Nationalism"; in the Prairies it is often the result of bed rock privation which develops into an "anti-St. James St." attitude. All these sections of the Dominion have their just claims. We, the college students of today and the leaders of tomorrow, must, while we are yet young and have impressionable minds, learn to understand and appreciate our fellow citizens. It is only by realizing that the people in the next province have just as much right to be heard as we have, that the country will ever be able to present a united front to the world.

This may sound like idealism—but a situation far more complex was faced by the fathers of Confederation. Surely in 1937 it can be faced by the people of Canada—but can it? Apparently not. Many of the grave questions confronting Canada today are being shelved by the Dominion Government. Ultimately this responsibility will be ours. It is up to us to fit ourselves for this responsibility which we will have to shoulder in years to come. We must learn to appreciate what the rest of our country thinks. We believe that the University Press as represented on your campus by your own paper can do a great deal towards the attainment of these ideas.

# Defence Debate Causes Division Of Dominion

## "Butter, Not Guns!" — By Grant Lathe

"GERMANY, Italy or Japan may bomb our parliament buildings—we must prepare to defend ourselves." This type of reasoning has been the basic starting point of all those who support the increase in defence estimates.

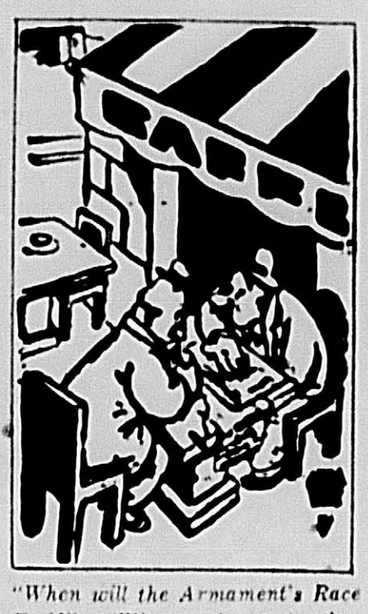
No wonder that many Canadians are convinced that the King government has deliberately produced a subterfuge to hide the real issue. For, there are only three possible situations in which Canada could become involved in a war:

(a) Canada being attacked.
(b) Canada supporting sanctions.
(c) Canada entering an empire war.

♦ ♦ ♦

### *Canada Attacked*

DANGER from the U.S.? It is certainly not greater than it was last year. What about Japan? Most observers agree—in face of the growing power of China and Russia in the East—that the threat from Japan is daily becoming smaller. Will Germany or Italy bomb our parliament buildings? Even a youthful reader of a "Mechanics magazine" knows that no European airplane could fly across the Atlantic without refueling in our country. Add to that the fact that Hitler and Mussolini are too strongly attracted by territories right around their own country, to worry about Canada. Not even in the wildest dreams of "Mein Kampf" does Hitler include our dominion among his "pieces de resistance."



*"When will the Armament's Race End?" "When each country has twice as much as the other."*

We are forced to conclude that an attack on Canada is as fantastic as a witch's tale.

♦ ♦ ♦

### *Military Sanctions*

HOW about the effects of sanctions? To start with, everyone agrees that Canada can, in this respect, be most effective economically. Assuming that our country were sincerely interested in pushing collective action—one would hardly be convinced of this from the stand taken on oil sanctions during the Ethiopian affair—we can conceive of our need for applying economic sanctions. And if it involved us in a military sense we could recruit volunteers when the need arose.

For, the application of military sanctions implies the use of the armies of all those who are parties to the agreement. To-day real collective security is possible only when France, Great Britain, Soviet Russia, the Baltic and Scandinavian countries, Czechoslovakia, etc. combine their forces against any violator of the peace. These countries combined are far stronger than any possible aggressor. We need, therefore, insist on big armies **only when we are not serious about collective security.**

But even granting the need for a strong army in such a situation, those who support collective action can not trust our government's present foreign policy, until they can be assured as to the government's real intentions. Thus, it is clear that neither opponents nor supporters of collective action will endorse the argument of "sanctions" as a basis for accepting the defence programme.

♦ ♦ ♦

### *Empire Defence*

WE are left with the third possibility. Since the other situations are so improbable the support of empire defence remains as the only logical excuse for the increase in appropriations. In view of the constitution of the Commonwealth, wherein Canada is automatically involved when Great Britain is at war, it becomes easier to understand the driving force behind the situation. Although King has stated that "Parliament will decide" what parliament can determine is the degree to which we will participate, **but not whether we are at war.** Imagine the state of affairs during the period of two or three weeks before parliament is summoned during which we are constitutionally "at war"—with public opinion highly aroused. The final decision of the House will probably be determined by "incidents which have in the meantime occurred, insults, attacks, etc.", and before we know it, we will be at war, body and soul.

♦ ♦ ♦

### *Mackenzie King's Position*

IT is really for this situation—the military support of the empire—that we are preparing and nothing else. The prime minister's own statement, made in the House on April 1st, 1935, is the greatest condemnation of his present position. At that time he said, "It is quite easy to say that we would stay out of the war, that we would not send men to fight in Europe, but after the experience I had of the pressure which was exerted at the time of the Chanak incident, I have very grave doubts as to what might happen in Canada if war were to break out again in any part of the world." It is thus utterly groundless to feel reassured by the statement that "parliament will decide", when the leader of the government party has such a thought in the back of his mind, and when his cabinet will be the one to act in the period before parliament is summoned. How much easier, in view of King's own statement, to appreciate the real meaning behind the increase!

## "Canada Needs Increased Armaments" — Says "Realist."

While armament increases may theoretically be highly undesirable, their value should be judged only in the light of the existing situation. An increased expenditure on armaments for this country can be advocated from three approaches, the national, the imperial and the international; the does not necessarily mean that they are always commendable.

Canada claims to be an autonomous and sovereign state. As such she must be prepared to defend herself. To rely entirely on the precariously guarded of the United States or on the protection of the British navy, supported by the overburdened English taxpayer, is damaging to our national dignity. The Pacific Coast is particularly vulnerable and might be the battleground for an eventual war between the United States and Japan. To prevent British Columbia from ever becoming a second Belgium, the Canadian people should now prepare to fortify the coast and islands of the Pacific so that Japan could never think of using them as a base of attack against the United States.

Canada's economic existence depends on the maintenance of exports. This gives the ports and lines of communication of the country a great strategic importance. In our present state of defencelessness, a few ships of almost any country could stop our foreign trade in a short time and with disastrous results.

We live in a rapidly rearming world. The peace is threatened by aggressive dictatorships. In the last few years two great militaristic nations have pounced upon defenceless peoples with the excuse that it was necessary to acquire sources of raw materials and outlets for excess populations. After Manchuria and Ethiopia, what next? Our own country is singularly rich in natural resources and has wide open spaces only sparsely settled. This is a standing invitation to any mad dictator to start an adventure.

♦ ♦ ♦

### *Canada Must Aid Mother Country*

Briefly, these are the national arguments for increasing our defense forces. Canada is also a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. England is our best customer. The Canadian people are profoundly attached by sentiment and origin to British institutions of government and to the idea of Empire. If Britain and the Empire were to find themselves in a position of acute danger, if the sources of our civilization were threatened, it would be the duty of Canada to go to the aid of the Mother Country. To act otherwise would be cowardice and a grave falling off in responsibility.

There is the final viewpoint. Canada, as a member of the League of Nations, has committed herself to the system of collective security. If democracy is threatened in Western Europe by some unholy alliance of dictators we, who still believe in the

*"Europe Races To Ruin"*

democratic way of life and in civil liberties, would be in honour bound to lend our assistance. It is a curious phenomenon that those who talk so much about neutrality and who are so opposed to increasing the armed forces are at the same time most anxious to give aid to the loyalists in Spain. This is the dilemma of pacifism. If what is happening in Spain were to occur on the whole European scene, moral support and collecting money for medical aid would not be adequate. We should be prepared to help with the use of arms if the free countries in Europe are menaced with annihilation.

Whether it be for the defense of the country, the security of the Empire or the very future of democracy, Canada needs increased armaments. In the face of a highly armed and in many ways hostile world, there is no other alternative.

♦ ♦ ♦

### *Support Of Great Britain*

SHOULD we support an empire defence scheme? Without doubt most Canadians are energetically opposed to such an idea. The very fact that the government had to produce the bogey of "German airplanes" is an indication that the government realizes where the Canadian people stand.

Giving support to the Baldwin government, means endorsing a foreign policy which has been the most weak-kneed in Europe. It means helping the attitude which undermines collective security in practice, although it pays lip service to it in words; a policy which supplies Germany with loans for rearmament, on the one hand, and then insists on spending billions for a defence programme to be prepared against her. How can we line up behind such a policy even if we want to support the empire?

♦ ♦ ♦

### *Independence of Canadian Foreign Policy*

AT the coming Imperial Conference, we must therefore insist that Canadian foreign policy will be independent of that of Great Britain. We must further be on guard lest we be faced with supplementary defence estimates later on in the year.

We are convinced that there are better uses to which the extra millions could be put—scholarships, unemployment relief, more jobs for young people. Because of this, a growing movement in opposition to the defence programme is in the best interests of our country.

# SPORTS NOTICES

INTERCLASS HOCKEY

The following time-table appears to fix the sectional schedule in the interclass hockey league and will be held subject to the approval of the Executive:

(1) 30-4-'37 Com. 4 vs. Com. 2
(2) 30-4-'37 Com. 3 vs. Med. 2
(3) 30-4-'37 Med. 1 vs. Arts 2

The winners of the Med. 1 vs. Arts 2 game will meet Arts 1 on Friday March 5th.

The winner of the Com. 4 vs. Com. 2 game will meet the winner of the Com. 3 vs. Med. 2 also on Friday.

INTER-FACULTY HOCKEY

The final of the inter-faculty hockey between Medicine and Commerce will take place tomorrow, March 4th, between 1 and 2 p.m. at the Forum if ice is available.

INTER-FACULTY BASEBALL

The Inter-faculty Baseball League will start shortly. Games will be played at 5.15 p.m. daily. All Faculties are requested to telephone their entries to F.M. Van Wagner as soon as possible.

M. R. I. PLAYOFFS

McGill Intermediates play Notre-Dame this evening at N.D.G. Community Hall Gym in an M.R.I. playoff fixture.

R.V.C. SPORTS NOTICES

R.V.C. Hockey Team plays Bishop's today at 1.40 at Mount Royal Arena. Tea at the University Women's Club for members of the teams.

GYM TEAM

Team Picture for the Annual Today, Wednesday, at 3 p.m. at Molsons on Drummond St. All come.

ON TIME

A limited number of amphitheatre tickets at 50c each have been received for the Queen-McGill game tonight at 8.30 p.m. These will be on sale at the Athletic Office in the Union until 2.00 p.m. today. Any students attending the game are asked to sit in the south-end for cheering under Joe Peck.

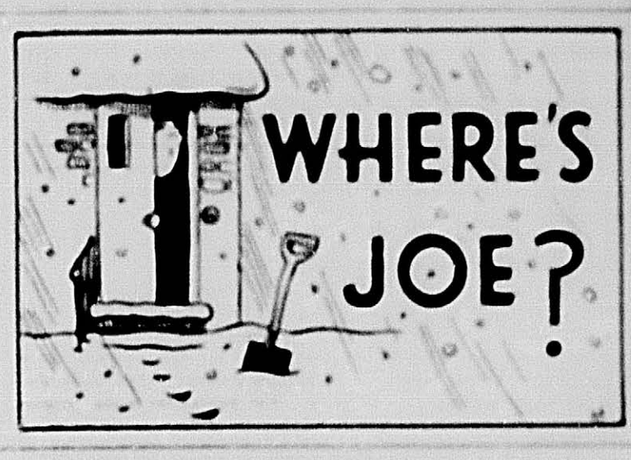
INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE HOCKEY

| | P | W | L | T | F | A | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McGill | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 4 | 11 |
| R. M. C. | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 16 | 6 |
| U. of M. | 6 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 20 | 8 |
| Loyola | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 24 | 18 | 7 |
| Bishop's | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 35 | 2 |

x—Plays four-point games except against Loyola.

McGill has championship.

C. P. A.
Corporation of Public Accountants
the Province of Quebec

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# Let Parliament Conscript

By J. de B.

ONE of the basic objects of this Petition is to induce the Parliament of Canada to remove the power of Conscription which may at the present time be enforced by order-in-council.

The question at hand is not whether we, Canadian Students, believe in Conscription or whether we would countenance Canada's participation in wars outside Canada; it is simply a question of denouncing what we believe to be today a rash and unwise power granted to the Canadian Cabinet in the crisis of the Great War. This power now lies dormant, but it may readily be invoked in the future.

Let us examine this much discussed power of Conscription. The Conscription Laws are found in the Revised Statutes of Canada (1927) Chapter 132 as follows — Section 8 "All the male inhabitants of Canada "of the age of 18 years and upwards, and under 60, not exempt or dis- "qualified by law, and being British Subjects shall be liable to service "in the Militia; provided that the Governor General of Canada may re- "quire all the male inhabitants of Canada capable of bearing arms to "serve, in the case of a levee en masse.".

Section 64 of the same Chapter reads "The Governor General in "Council may place the Militia, or any part thereof on active service "anywhere in Canada, and also beyond Canada, for the defence thereof "at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of emergency."

### *Cabinet Alone Enforces Conscription*

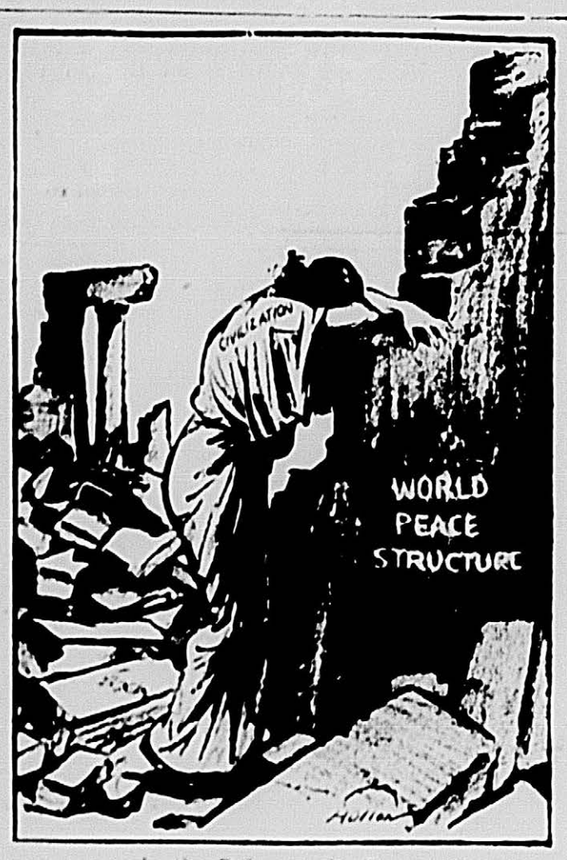
Thus we see that the Governor General in Council, which means the Cabinet, may, in case of emergency, enforce conscription, enroll citizens in the Militia and then send them abroad for 'the defence of Canada'.

Recently we have had an example of the powers exercised by the Cabinet. In the constitutional crisis the Cabinet alone gave Canada's consent to the abdication and the change in succession. Parliament's part was to approve the completed action. Perhaps this was the proper method of dealing with that particular situation—but what will prevent the Cabinet from exercising such complete power in the face of another emergency?

### *Let Parliament Decide*

No war in Europe or Asia will start with such striking speed that the Canadian Parliament will be unable to meet in time to consider the situation. This would appear to be the view of the Government for on September the 29th, 1936 in the Assembly of the League of Nations Mr. King said "Any decision on the part of Canada to participate in war will have to be taken by the Parliament or people of Canada in the light of all existing circumstances; circumstances of the day as they exist in Canada, as well as in the areas involved". This being the case it is not unreasonable for us to consider the enactment of legislation which would make the law conform with a de facto situation. That is to say — Parliament should be willing to pass legislation which would make conscription possible only after due consideration.

What is said or promised when everything is running smoothly is often forgotten when a crisis arises. We can see the day coming when the words of the Prime Minister in Geneva concerning the declaration of war by Parliament are forgotten and we find ourselves involved in a war as the result of executive action — it has happened before. Then, if the Conscription laws are unrepealed, the natural sequence will be immediate conscription by order in council. This must be avoided — we, Canadian Students, will not be railroaded into any war in which Parliament has no say. By repealing the Conscription laws we may weaken the hand of the executive — but not the basic power of Parliament. Thus there will be mature thought before embarking on what might well be a rash policy. Let Parliament alone consider War and Conscription.




*In the Ruins of the Temple*
*— Philadelphia Inquirer.*

### *Sports Calender Today*

***Hockey***

McGill vs. Quebec Aces, Forum, 8.30 (Last of two-of-three game series. Senior Group semi-final playoff)

***Basketball (M.B.L. Playoffs)***

McGill Intermediates vs. Naismith, N.D.G. Community Hall, 8 p.m.

McGill Grads vs. Y.M.H.A., 9.30 p.m.

***Swimming***

Provincial Championships, N.D.G. pool, 8 p.m. (McGill defending title)

***Thursday***

***Hockey***

Intermediate College, McGill at Loyola, 8 p.m. (McGill has won championship)

REVUE

COSTUMES

The following are to report to Miss Hurlbut before 12 o'clock today for fittings for the Pirate: BROWN, LAWSON, McKENZIE, and WALKER. It is absolutely necessary that the above persons report today.

*"He Won't Be Happy Till He Gets It"*

*(Parodying a once famous soap advertisement, Reichsfuerer Hitler is shown reaching out for "Colonies")*
*— Glasgow Record.*

*A definite support of a Pan American Union.*

*What a road, the Road to Glory.*

*We should keep out of European Wars.*

# Symposium Considers Position Of Canada In World Affairs

## Canada Dependent On World Peace

***By B. Muller***

"The League of Nations is dead." "Canada should isolate herself from Europe and mind her own business" . . . these are some of the comments made whenever the subject of Canadian foreign policy is raised. It will be the aim of this article to show that while things may look gloomy at the present moment there still is a possibility of averting the coming catastrophe by collective action of peoples and countries throughout the world.

### *The Armament Race*

Above all one fact is outstanding—all countries are today building armaments on an unprecedented scale on preparation for war. There is no doubt that the source of the war danger comes from three powers: Germany, Italy in Europe, and Japan in the East. These are the powers which threaten the peace of the world and refuse to come to some agreement with the other powers which would stop the armaments race and remove the war danger—even at this late hour.

In such a situation, where a mad race for armaments is the order of the day, one often wonders whether it is possible to evolve a peaceful solution of international problems.

Is it possible to maintain peace in Europe today? It certainly is! But only through the energetic cooperation of those countries which desire peace.

### *Collective Action*

Suppose that Germany and Italy together decide that they are ready to put their artillery bombers to work. Only a collective agreement on the part of all the other European countries to take action in unison against the aggressor would make them think twice. Take a country like Czechoslovakia or Bulgaria. Can they save themselves by building big armies? Obviously not! Will they get into the good graces of the German tiger by becoming his friend? That is a very dangerous and uncertain procedure, for at best a tiger is a doubtful and temporary ally. Only collective action can save peace.

The only way in which such countries can retain their integrity is to receive the support of Great Britain and France, as well as of all the small nations of Europe who are in a similar position. Germany and Italy cannot fight the whole of Europe. Only when they are able to play off one country against another can they succeed at all with their plans. If peace is to be preserved in Europe, they must be divested of this power—Europe must show unity in its stand against any future aggressor.

### *Aggressors Encouraged*

We realize that the League of Nations is weak—that it has not shown real backbone in the past. The policy of England and France has only given encouragement to future aggressors. For years, Great Britain has been financing German rearmament. British dollars have created a monster which threatens to destroy Britain itself.

But this does not prove that the League cannot be made effective. If only the countries of Europe appreciated their own dangerous position they would do all they could to put "teeth" into the League and reconstruct it into an effective instrument for collective security. There is absolutely no alternative policy which can lead to peace—competitive armaments can only lead to war. 1914 has not yet faded into oblivion.

### *Canadian Policy*

What, in this tragic situation, is the role of Canada? Geographically, we are extremely isolated. Our population is too small to defend us against a powerful country. As a result of this fact, there has grown up a feeling that we must isolate ourselves from the rest of the world if we are to have peace.

Canada cannot be absolutely neutral in a war. We are not a self-sufficient country. In proportion to her population Canada is the biggest exporting country in the world. If a war broke out, Canada would have three alternatives. The first one would be to cease trade with all countries. This is obviously impossible for it would mean the complete ruin of her commerce. The second would be to continue to export nickel, copper, wheat, etc., to the aggressor country and would be giving aid and comfort to this aggressor and all future ones. She would be prolonging the war and thus making her own neutral position more and more impossible. The third alternative would be to cease all trade with the aggressor country and continue trade with the country which is the victim of an attack. This alternative is both the just one as well as the one which will tend to make the position of the aggressor more and more uncomfortable.

### *Isolation Vs. League*

The policy of absolute isolationism resembles that of an ostrich who buries his head in the sand when he is in danger? Strangely enough, Mr. King and Mr. Lapointe who are such great internationalists when it comes to huge defence estimates for Imperial purposes adopted this ostrich policy with regard to the League of Nations and refuse to give it real support. Was it not the Canadian delegate Riddel who withdrew the motion for oil sanctions which would have stopped the Italo-Ethiopian war in December, 1935?

There is only one way for keeping Canada at peace—that is to keep the world at peace. We must do our share, as a member of the British Commonwealth to force Great Britain in Real action for the collective maintenance of peace. We must do our utmost to help establish a League of Nations that will become powerful and effective. If we do this we have at least some chance of success—if we do not, then we are surely doomed. The job is difficult, but it can be done.

### *Sanctions Vital*

SOME ARGUE THAT COMMITMENTS TO THE LEAGUE MAY INVOLVE US IN A WAR SOONER THAN OTHERWISE, BUT SUCH COMMITMENTS FOR ACTION AGAINST AN AGGRESSOR IN THE FUTURE WILL NOT REALLY INVOLVE US IN MILITARY AID BUT RATHER IN THE STOPPING OF THE SHIPMENT OF WHEAT, NICKEL, COPPER, ASBESTOS, ETC. TO THE AGGRESSOR. CANADA CAN BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IN AN ECONOMIC THAN IN A MILITARY MANNER.

Not an enormous defence programme, not a big share in Imperial defence, but a firm stand at the coming Imperial Conference in London, that the British Commonwealth must support collective security—that is the path for our country.

## *Petition Criticized*

***By E. H. Piper***

SECTION 1 of the Peace Petition is, in our opinion, very poorly phrased. Its spirit and intention are undoubtedly intended for the best, but in fact it carries no weight at all. The idea behind the section is to eliminate the lapse between the passing of the Order-in-Council and its ratification, within fifteen days, by Parliament. This period, it is felt, can be used for such powerful propaganda that conscription would follow automatically by the act of an influenced legislative body.

The second section raises a greater problem—Canada and her connection with the Empire at large and with Great Britain in particular. The Petition wants us to demand and obtain a definite understanding as to our status and position as regards Great Britain. Most people already know that complete autonomy was offered the various Dominions of the British Empire at the Imperial Conference of 1930. Most of them accepted such status. Canada voluntarily refused complete autonomy. Now a number of fairly well-educated, but inexperienced, students want to tell the group of equally or better educated statesmen who repreaented Canada at the Conference, statesmen, moreover who had and have years of experience in Canada's problems and constitutional functions, that they are wrong, that tney knew not what they did. Maybe the statesmen are wrong and the students are right, but I, for one, doubt it.

### *Collective Responsibility*

Even so there are other objections to the Petition. If we intend to take the attitude that we shall not fight unless we are directly concerned, which is the principle underlying and forming the foundation of section 2, we revert to pre-historic instability. For what is civilization but the organization of society for protective measures and mutual advantage? Police forces could never work efficiently if every individual took the attitude that the Petition would have us take. Society could not exist on such a principle. As a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations we must act as protectors of the Commonwealth. We, by remaining within the Empire, and rightly so, have admitted our faith and belief in British culture, British justice, and British democracy, wherever it exists in the Empire. If Great Britain or any other nation within the Empire goes to war in defence of these principles we should also rise in arms to help.

To take any other stand, that for example of the "peace-at-any-price" proponents, would brand us, as the Prime Minister aptly put it, as "spongers." Our very existence as a nation is only possible by the protection of the British Navy and the other armed forces of the Crown in the right of the United Kingdom.

### *United We Stand*

To fight only where Canada is concerned, or to believe the "peace-at-any-price" doctrine means the destruction, sooner or later, of all that Britain and the British Commonwealth of Nations stands for. The united power of the British Empire is today the world's most secure guarantee for peace. We weaken or strengthen that power as we sign or refuse to sign the Petition.

*"He Looks Better in Uniform."*

A Message to College Men

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CABARET

## McGILL DEBATERS TRIUMPH AT KINGSTON

*(Special to McGill Daily)*

Kingston, Ont., March 2.—McGill University debaters, upholding the motion, "resolved that the Dominion Government should adopt an aggressive policy to encourage immigration," were given the decision over a team from the Queen's Debating Union here last night by the speaker of the House, Louis Gouillard, after the House had divided equally on the question.

Ivor Williams and Thomas Lamont argued for the affirmative at Fraser Grimshaw and Alan Geld were the tri-color team.

The affirmative advanced the contention that the future prosperity Canada must of necessity be based upon domestic self-sufficiency a that under these circumstances an enlarged consuming body would essential. They claimed that as one of the richest mineral bearing countries in the world, Canada must certainly at some future time incite cupidity of foreign powers. Enlarged Anglo Saxon population was held be a reliable safeguard against such a menace.

The negative claimed that much of the agricultural land available Canada would not be apt to more than barely support an immigrant population. They claimed maldistribution of the present Canadian population to be a more pressing problem.

W. MUIR, Queen's Journal.

*All Cartoons on this Page supplied through courtesy of John Dougall and Son, publishers of World Wide.*

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# LES ETUDIANTSCANADIENS SE LIGUENT CONTRE LA GUERRE

**La présente politique d'armements ne peut qu'entraîner le Canada dans un conflit européen presque inévitable — Opinion unanime — Nous n'avons rien à gagner et tout à perdre dans une guerre — La présente constitution peut nous mettre sur un pied de guerre en un moment — Agissons maintenant si nous voulons échapper au sort auquel ou nous destine malgré notre volonté.**

## La paix pour le Canada dépend de la paix mondiale

Article par Bernard Muller, Secretary Student Peace Movement — La Société des Nations et Notre Politique Etrangère

"La Société des Nations est défunte". "Il est impossible d'espérer la coopération de puissances préoccupées avant tout de leurs propres intérêts". "Le Canada devrait s'isoler du reste de l'Europe et s'occuper de ses propres affaires". Tels sont quelques-uns des commentaires invariablement soulevés par la seule mention de la brûlante question de la politique étrangère du Canada. La paix mondiale est-elle devenue une chimère?

Un fait patent émerge rapidement: c'est avec une frénésie inouïe que, présentement, toutes les nations s'arment et se préparent à la guerre. Trois puissances, l'Allemagne et l'Italie en Europe, et le Japon en Asie, menacent présentement la paix du monde.

Supposons que l'Allemagne et l'Italie, ensemble déclarent la guerre à l'Angleterre, et qu'en deux jours nous nous trouvions sur le théâtre de hostilités. Sous l'action collective et immédiate de toutes les autres nations de l'Europe (sauf celle de deux pays agresseurs). Un petit pays comme la Belgique et la Tchéco-Slovaquie qui ne pouvait absolument pas se défendre seuls, et pourtant nous nous trouvons armés. Cela pourrait peut-être nous sauver d'une catastrophe mondiale, mais ce serait certainement la guerre avec toutes ses horreurs. Cela pourrait peut-être nous sauver de la guerre, mais ce serait certainement la guerre avec toutes ses horreurs. Cela pourrait peut-être nous sauver de la guerre, mais ce serait certainement la guerre avec toutes ses horreurs.

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* * *

### L'Angleterre et la France, nations impérialistes

Ces grandes puissances impérialistes ont tout à gagner en travaillant à la sainte cause de la paix mondiale. Ce précédent a donné des dominions britanniques de leurs Empires. Et c'est ainsi qu'à l'heure actuelle, les intérêts économiques, les petites nations et de la masse de tous les individus collectivement ont des puissants intérêts de la Grande et de la Grande-Bretagne. Tous désirent la paix, bien que probablement pour des motifs tout différents.

Un cataclysme mondial, l'univers. Les ennemis mêmes doivent s'unir. Le milieu de la tourmente, elle veulent échapper à la fureur des flots et des éléments. Il faut donc et cela constitue compte du motif, n'oir avec qui conque présentement désire la paix afin de présenter un front uni et redoutable au Japon, à l'Allemagne et à l'Italie, agresseurs de demain. La collaboration désintéressée, sincère et entière de toutes les nations est aujourd'hui le seul moyen de prévenir le plus grand désastre de l'histoire du monde.

* * *

### L'Attitude Canadienne

Quel est, dans cette situation trop grave, le rôle du Canada? Nous sommes géographiquement isolés. Notre population est trop faible pour nous défendre contre une nation puissante. Nous faisons cela partout qui est dans notre solution du reste du monde, de notre paix.

Le Canada ne peut être complètement isolé dans l'occurrence d'une guerre? Nous ne pouvons nous soustraire à nous-mêmes. Mais que, en proposant avec notre participation, nous aurons la paix d'une organisation de paix impartiale du monde entier. Le Canada et la guerre mondiale, entre d'une alternative.

La première partie de cette alternative est la plus grave. Nous sommes en raison de la guerre dans la mesure de notre commerce que cela entraînerait. La seconde partie de cette alternative est la plus grave. Nous sommes en raison de la guerre dans la mesure de notre commerce que cela entraînerait. La seconde partie de cette alternative est la plus grave. Nous sommes en raison de la guerre dans la mesure de notre commerce que cela entraînerait.

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### LA PETITION

ATTENDU que la présente situation internationale nous met en face d'un danger de guerre imminent,

Nous soussignés, étudiants canadiens, affirmons résolument notre volonté de paix et soumettons, par les présentes, la pétition ci-dessous au Parlement Canadien.

1. — Attendu que l'acte de la Milice fait partie des statuts révisés du Canada, c. 132, 1927; et

Attendu que certaines sections de cet acte rendent la conscription des Canadiens, en vue d'un service actif à l'étranger, possible par ordre-en-conseil,

Conséquemment, nous exprimons par les présentes notre opposition à la conscription en vue d'un service actif à l'étranger et demandons au Parlement d'amender l'acte susdit de façon à supprimer ce pouvoir actuel.

2. — Attendu que plusieurs rumeurs circulent au Canada de nos jours au sujet d'une possible compromission du Canada avec la Grande Bretagne dans le cas ou la Grande Bretagne serait en guerre; et

Attendu que les relations du Canada et de la Grande Bretagne dans un tel cas ne sont pas clairement définies,

Conséquemment, nous demandons au Parlement Canadien d'adopter la législation nécessaire pour établir et pour rendre clair le fait que le Canada n'est pas automatiquement en guerre quand la Grande Bretagne est en guerre, et que seul le Gouvernement Canadien possède l'autorité de déclarer la guerre et la paix pour le Canada.

façon à supprimer ce pouvoir actuel.

## La jeunesse étudiante refuse de se battre

(Editorial par Jean Valcrand — Directeur du "Quartier Latin")

I.

Jean Valcrand

Rédacteur du "Quartier Latin" Membre du Comité de la Pétition

Maurice Archambault

Rédacteur du "Quartier Latin" Membre du Comité de la Pétition

## *Affirmons Notre Politique Extérieure D'une Façon Nette*

### *Remerciements*

Nous tenons au nom de tous les étudiants de toutes les universités canadiennes qui nous soutiennent dans notre campagne contre la conscription et la guerre, sur le champ de bataille, ou de tout autre manière, notre sincère et le sang fraternel. Il n'est pas rare que les étudiants de McGill ne soient l'opportunité d'une telle par les étudiants de l'Université de Montréal pour leur attention leurs vues sur notre cause par importantes questions. Une plus sincère appréciation des nouvelles concernant a été réalisé. Nos plus sincères remerciements à tous ceux qui ont contribué à notre édition, depuis ses débuts à une heure peut-être où les étudiants dorment encore.

## Les Canadiens Refusent De Se Laisser Conscrire

L'HISTOIRE se repete a rythme accelere. Tout le vocabulaire 1914 revient a la mode. Je n'en ferai pas l'enumeration, tant il suggère d'horreur et de degout. Les declarations rassurantes de nos hommes d'Etat d'alors nous ont valu la conscription et la decimation de la jeunesse canadienne, des depenses exorbitantes et steriles, la perte d'un capital necessaire au developement du Canada. Et nous avons maintenant nos reliques: nos glorieux anciens combattants, notre cenotaphe et nos dettes de guerre. Amers souvenirs d'un conflit qui ne nous regardait pas.

Aujourd'hui, l'Europe prend la voie des cataclysmes qui l'ont ravagee de 1914 a 1918. Serons-nous encore les victimes inutiles? Irons-nous a la mort sans trop savoir pour qui, alors qu'helas! nous savons bien pourquoi: l'ambition effrenee de certains peuples, la cupidité de quelques financiers sans patrie?

### *"Notre Belle Jeunesse"*

Non! La jeunesse ne repondra pas a l'appel du pluto; elle y repondra mais a sa maniere. Depuis trop longtemps, "notre belle jeunesse" est, en periode electorale, le lieu commun favori des politiciens. S'il arrive que par un acte de lacheté autant que de servilisme, nous soyons mis au pas d'oies, nos beaux declamateurs qui nous communiqueront cet imperatif, "notre belle jeunesse", "espoir du Canada", "l'avenir de demain" comme ils savent si bien dire, repondra par un "Non serviam" dont la clameur fera des lors douter des vertus oratoires de nos grands tribuns. S'ils contractent des engagements que le peuple et la jeunesse n'endossent pas, apres avoir subi le feu de la rampe, ils devront recevoir le baptême du feu pour avoir trop rampé . . .

Ainsi est-ce pour l'avenir de la race la plus respectueuse de notre irreductible volonté de paix, que nous adressons cette petition au Parlement. Elle resume le minimum de nos exigences actuelles. Elle est forte de l'approbation de tous les etudiants canadiens et de la sympathie du peuple tout entier.

Nous n'avons pas voulu imposer au Parlement une ligne de conduite quant a la question des armements. Nous distinguons en effet le programme de defense nationale de la politique exterieure. Alors que tous les Canadiens qui le sont reellement avec nous une politique d'abstention dans les conflits etrangers, meme lorsque la Grande-Bretagne est partie a ce conflit, l'opinion se partage quant a l'opportunité d'un armement capable d'assurer la protection de notre territoire et de notre commerce ainsi que le maintien de l'ordre au sein meme du Canada.

### *Budget de guerre*

Nous avions pu exprimer quelque crainte au sujet de ce budget de guerre nouveau genre, dire notre scepticisme quant a l'urgence de la coincidence entre cette augmentation et le plan jubilaire de rearmement de la Grande mere, nous avons voulu nous en tenir a quelques idees sur lesquelles nous avons assure de l'unanimité.

L'Angleterre, para d'Europe, a ses problèmes; nous avons les nôtres. Unir trop etroitement notre sort au sien, c'est exposer une cause qui pourrait ne nous apporter que debacles economiques et politiques. On ne sacrifie pas l'enfant pour sauver la mere.

Comme on le voit, la petition reclame le retranchement complet et a jamais de nos statuts de cette partie de la Loi du Service militaire qui parle au gouverneur general un pouvoir special dont l'exercice pourrait causer notre perte. Que la Loi du Service militaire, telle qu'appliquee en 1917, ne soit plus en vigueur, a cause d'une certaine clause limitant son application au conflit d'alors, j'en veux croire les declarations de l'honorable Ernest Lapointe; cependant, en depit de la grande confiance que nous pouvons avoir dans la science legale du ministre de la justice, pour detruire toute ambiguite, toute incertitude, — ce qui lui eviterait de devoir repondre a la meme question a chaque session du Parlement — nous prions nos legislateurs de faire un texte de loi dont parlent assez rassurantes de notre ministre.

Qu'on nous pardonne cette defiance. Elle est l'apanage d'une generation rongee par l'inquietude. On ne devine pas toute l'astuce dont se servent parfois les hommes de loi pour faire concorder une regle a leur pensee et a leur vouloir. Qui nous dit que nous aurons toujours des gouvernants aussi bien disposes? Comme il est etabli dans les Reglements de la Chambre, nous donnons credit de leur bonne foi a nos legislateurs, nous avons meme une certaine confiance en leur valeur, mais rien ne nous rassure autant qu'une loi claire et precise. D'ailleurs nous ne demandons que l'exercice d'un droit que nous concede le Statut de Westminster.

J'en pourrais dire autant de la seconde partie de la petition qui tend a rendre le Canada seul maitre de sa politique exterieure. Le Tres Honorable Mackenzie King a rassure plusieurs fois la Chambre a ce sujet. Mais il reste toujours une vague de doute. Ce que c'est qu'avoir un temperament de latin, nous croyons encore au vieux dicton: "Verba volant, scripta manent". Pourquoi en restons-nous toujours au discours?

### *Droit constitutionnel*

Certains legistes, en s'appuyant sur un droit constitutionnel permis, nous objectent que cette loi serait ultra vires. A ceux-la nous repondrons que, pour une fois, ils se tiennent etrangement au texte, alors qu'habituellement et dans toutes les branches du droit, ils invoquent la coutume de la jurisprudence. S'il fallait les en croire nous n'aurions qu'a nous croiser les bras. Attendons que la liberale Angleterre vienne elle-meme denouer les chaines qui nous rattachent a son destin (a ces miseres, car en temps de prosperite elle nous connait pas). C'est peut-etre ainsi que De Valera a obtenu l'eclatement de l'Irlande, que l'Afrique du Sud a gagne la liberté de rester neutre dans un conflit international et que naguere les Etats-Unis ont conquis leur independance? C'est peut-etre ainsi que nous marcherons le plus surement vers notre autonomie definitive!

Changeons de ton car il pourrait se faire que beaucoup de nos lecteurs bien sous ne voient pas l'ecole de mes interrogations. "Demandez et vous recevrez", cela est vrai, meme dans les relations des peuples. C'est en demandant que nous obtiendrons quelque chose. J'oserais meme dire que c'est avec assez de calme et d'indifference que l'Angleterre verrait le Canada se liberer peu a peu et de son propre effort du jour materiel tout en lui conservant une amitié sans defiances et de la meilleure source. Mais cela depasse les vues de la petition et pourrait donner lieu a un autre debat.

Qu'on aille pas croire surtout que c'est la peur qui nous dicte ces propos. Nous ne serons jamais aussi braves que le jour ou nous saurons dire non aux vendeurs de chair. Et cependant nous ne serons jamais mieux disposes a servir notre pays que le jour ou l'on nous aura appris que le service militaire n'est pas un service. Si nous devons mourir, que ce soit du moins sur le sol canadien.

MAURICE ARCHAMBAULT,
Rédacteur en chef du Quartier Latin. Membre du comité national de la Pétition des Etudiants.

Nous nous refusons à croire que le Canada soit assez fou pour se lancer dans une guerre dont les conséquences seraient désastreuses pour lui. Nous ne voulons pas que nos fils soient envoyés à la boucherie pour défendre des intérêts qui ne sont pas les nôtres. Nous ne voulons pas que nos fils soient envoyés à la boucherie pour défendre des intérêts qui ne sont pas les nôtres. Nous ne voulons pas que nos fils soient envoyés à la boucherie pour défendre des intérêts qui ne sont pas les nôtres. Nous ne voulons pas que nos fils soient envoyés à la boucherie pour défendre des intérêts qui ne sont pas les nôtres.

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### L'Unité du Canada est en danger

Une propagande active s'exerce présentement de notre pays auprès des gens de Londres. Nos représentants officiels, notre presse, nos politiciens, nos orateurs, nos écrivains, nos hommes publics, nos journaux, nos revues, nos livres, nos brochures, nos tracts, nos affiches, nos annonces, nos réclames, nos enseignes, nos panneaux